Mr. Nathan Bunt, Executive Officer  
Outer Suburban/Interface Services and Development Committee  
Parliament of Victoria  
Parliament House, Spring Street  
East Melbourne, Vic 3002

Dear Mr. Bunt,

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to this important inquiry. We in the township of Whittlesea are very interested in this matter, given that our region is one of the fastest growing areas in the state.

One of the most vital issues for our community is the lack of public transport and the inadequacy of the existing road infrastructure. As the homes are built and the people move in, the traffic congestion has become a real problem. Not only along the commuter routes is there a problem, but it has become an issue in shopping precincts, school precincts, railway stations and the like. As an example you will find all of our nearby railway parking is full to overflowing every work day. (Metro Stations at Epping and Craigieburn and VLine stations at Donnybrook and Wallan.) Residents of our community have no choice but to drive to the nearest station or drive into town where the work is located. It always seems crazy to us that development is allowed to proceed before the roads are developed to handle the influx of new families and their cars. With minimal public transport to the outer areas the reliance on cars is obvious. Public transport should also be upgraded before the housing developments proceed.

The second issue of high importance to us is in the area of skills training. As a provider of educative courses and activities we are very keen to see some research into the needs of the residents of the area (both existing and new residents) so we can tailor our courses and activities to meet these needs. We would envisage there would be widely varied needs for vocational courses as well as social and recreational activities. The value of a widespread needs analysis would be invaluable.

We would see these activities linking in with employment opportunities that may be created in the area if employers could be attracted to establish nearby.

Thank you again for this opportunity. We sincerely hope our small voice may be heard and that genuine progress can be made for the good of the community now and into the future.

Yours sincerely,

Kerry Clarke  
Chairperson, Whittlesea Community House Inc.